

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT KUWAIT 2039 ACTION SECSTATE, USDOC, AND
DEPT OF TREASURY INFO ALGIERA, AMMAN, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCU
S,
DJIBOUTI, DOHA, JIDDA, KHARTOUM, MANAMA, MOGADISCIO, MUSCAT,
NOUAKCHOTT, RABAT, SANA, AND TRIPOLI DATED APR 6, 1978.

QUOTE C UNCLAS KUWAIT 2039

DEPT. FOR NEA/ARP

COMMERCE FOR ITA/BED/CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBSR, BTRA, KU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION TO U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 86840, (B) KUWAIT 1089.

1. SUMMARY: WITH GANDPYZENG BEFORE THE
DEPARTURE OF THE JOINT DELEGATIONS OF THE UNION OF ARAB
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (UACC) MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES,
KUWAIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KCC) OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT
SAUDI ARABIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT
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WILL NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE PARTICIPATING. OPPOSING THE
CALL BY THE UACC DIRECTOR GENERAL TO CANCEL THE TRIP, THE
KCC IS COORDINATING WITH OTHER CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO
ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AND IS SENDING A
TOP LEVEL DELEGATION WHOSE MEMBERS ARE INFLUENTIAL POLICY
MAKERS AND ADVISORS IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS
CIRCLES. KCC HAS ASSURED US THAT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT

IS STILL "ON", BUT ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY WISH TO QUERY THE CHAMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. WE PRESUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT, COMMERCE AND TREASURY ARE COORDINATING WITH THE ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE CHARGED WITH PROGRAM PREPARATION FOR THE MISSION. IN SO FAR AS THE KUWAITI DELEGATION IS CONCERNED, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY OR ANOTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, SUCH AS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ATHERTON, COULD MEET WITH THEM. SINCE KHALED ABU SAUD HAS A DUAL ROLE IN THE GULF AS ADVISOR TO THE AMIR OF KUWAIT AND TO THE ABU DHABI FUND ON FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT AFFAIRS, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT TREASURY WOULD WANT TO ARRANGE SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM WITH UNDER-SECRETARY SOLOMAN OR WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL. EFFORTS MADE TO DEMONSTRATE US INTEREST AND ATTENTION TO KUWAIT GROUP WILL BE WELL SPENT. END SUMMARY.

2. SENIOR KCC OFFICIAL, MAJED BADRI JAMAL UDDIN, INFORMED US THAT ON APRIL 2 THE SAUDI ARABIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCED TO UACC DIRECTOR GENERAL DAJANI THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THE UACC MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES. DAJANI ALERTED ALL UACC MEMBER STATES AND PROPOSED THAT THE TRIP BE CANCELLED. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN FOR THE SAUDI WITHDRAWAL. THE KCC OPPOSES CANCELLATION, SINCE CONSIDERABLE TIME, PREPARATION, AND PRESTIGE ARE INVOLVED. WHILE KUWAIT FAVORED CANCELLATION OF THE MISSION AT THE FEBRUARY 4-6 MEETING IN AMMAN, UNCLASSIFIED

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IT BELIEVES THAT TO CANCEL NOW WOULD GIVEN EVEN GREATER CREDENCE TO CHARGES OF ARAB DISUNITY AND WOULD EMBARRASS THE ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBERS HOSTING THE UACC. KUWAIT IS COORDINATING WITH OTHER UACC MEMBERS TO ENSURE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE MISSION. JAMAL UDDIN HAS ASSURED US THAT THE TRIP IS STILL "ON", SO FAR AS THE KCC IS CONCERNED. OTHER ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY WISH TO QUERY THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO JAMAL UDDIN, THE AREAS OF CONCERN FOR THE KUWAIT DELEGATION IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE ARE A) THE DECLINING VALUE OF THE U.S. DOLLAR AND ITS EFFECT ON ARAB OIL REVENUES AND INVESTMENT INCOME; B) THE BOYCOTT, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE RUBRIC OF "ARAB-AMERICAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS"; C) AGRIBUSINESS; AND D) U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN TRADE, INDUSTRY, BANKING AND THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE ARAB WORLD.

4. THE KCC DELEGATE TO THE QUADRILATERAL BUSINESSMAN'S MEETING IN GENEVA (APRIL 12-14), AHMAD SALEH AL SHAYA, HAS INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE "REAL TOPIC OF INTEREST WILL BE THE BOYCOTT".

5. JAMAL UDDIN NOTED THAT THE KUWAIT DELEGATION IS COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING EACH AREA OF CONCERN AT EVERY STOP IN THEIR SCHEDULED PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, ABDULAZIZ AL SAGAR, PRESIDENT OF THE KUWAIT CHAMBER AND HEAD OF THE DELEGATION, WILL BE A FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER AT A DINNER IN WASHINGTON REPORTEDLY TO BE HOSTED BY THE ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE. THE ANNOUNCED TOPIC OF HIS SPEECH

WILL BE THE DECLINE OF THE DOLLAR AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ARAB WORLD.

6. THE KUWAIT DELEGATION WILL NUMBER ELEVEN AND CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

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A. ABDULAZIZ AL SAGAR, PRESIDENT OF KUWAIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND HEAD OF DELEGATION. (AN INFLUENTIAL ADVISOR TO THE AMIR ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL MATTERS AND THE ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER OF THE IMPORTANT KUWAITI BUSINESS COMMUNITY).

B. ABDULRAZAK AL KHALED, CHAIRMAN, ALKHALED ALZAID TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. (MAJOR LOCAL CONTRACTOR AND MERCHANT).

C. ABDULBAQI AL NOURI, CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CO. (PIC). (HEAD OF KUWAIT'S NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY.)

D. NAJEEB AL MULLA, CHAIRMAN, BADER AL MULLA BROS. CO. (AL MULLA IS THE LARGEST CHRYSLER AGENT IN THE GULF, AND PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH THEM DURING VISIT.)

E. HAMAD AHMAD ABDULLATIF AL HAMAD, CHAIRMAN, COMMERCIAL BANK OF KUWAIT (CHASE HOLDS THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR THE COMMERCIAL BANK, AND AL HAMAD CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH DAVID ROCKEFELLER WHOM HE HOSTED DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO KUWAIT.)

F. ALI AL RADWAN (ONE OF KUWAIT'S MOST PROMINENT LAWYERS WHOSE FIRM HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH AMERICAN FIRMS OVER THE QUESTION OF THE BOYCOTT).

G. KHALED ABU SA'UD, ADVISOR TO THE AMIR OF KUWAIT AND TO THE ABU DHABI FUND ON FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT AFFAIRS (SEE COMMENTS BELOW).

H. SHAYKH ABDULLA TURAIKI, EX-MINISTER OF OIL FOR SAUDI ARABIA (TURAIKI IS CONSIDERED THE "FATHER" OF ARAB NATIONALIZATION OF OIL COMPANIES AND IS A STAUNCH FOE OF U.S. OIL AND ECONOMIC POLICY.)

I. DR. GOERGE TOAMA, TECHNICAL ADVISOR, OAPEC (FORMER AMBASSADOR OF SYRIA TO THE U.N.)

J. DR. MOHAMMAD KHOULI, TECHNICAL EXPERT, KUWAIT FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

K. MAJED BADRI JAMAL UDDIN, ADVISOR, KUWAIT CHAMBER OF UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMERCE.

7. THE DELEGATION'S ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. APRIL 17-20 NEW YORK (WALDORF ASTORIA)
- B. APRIL 20-23 WASHINGTON, D.C. (MADISON)
- C. APRIL 23-26 HOUSTON (WHITEHALL HOTEL)
- D. APRIL 26-30 LOS ANGELES (HILTON)
- E. APRIL 30 TO MAY 3 CHICAGO (RITZ CARLTON)

8. WHILE NO MEMBER OF THE KUWAIT DELEGATION IS AN "OFFICIAL" REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT, THE PARTICIPATING MEMBERS EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN POLICY-MAKING AND ADVISORY FUNCTIONS WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS CIRCLES. WE NOTE FROM REF A THAT THE DEPARTMENT, COMMERCE, AND TREASURY ARE COORDINATING WITH THE ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WHO ARE ORGANIZING THE MISSION PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE EFFORTS MADE TO DEMONSTRATE USG INTEREST IN AND ATTENTION TO THE AREAS OF CONCERN RAISED BY THE DELEGATION WILL BE WELL SPENT. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD ALSO PRESUME THAT TREASURY WILL WISH TO MAKE CONTACT WITH KHALED ABU SA'UD WHO IS WELL KNOWN AS LEADING GOK FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT ADVISER. HE IS ALSO ADVISER FOR ABU DHABI FUND. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT TREASURY ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM WITH UNDERSECRETARY SOLOMON, AND POSSIBLY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AS WELL.

9. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS VISIT OF DISTINGUISHED ARAB BUSINESSMEN BY ALSO ARRANGING A POLITICAL BRIEFING FOR THEM (NOT NOTED ON SCHEDULE IN REF A) BY SENIOR OFFICIAL SUCH AS AMBASSADOR ATHERTON, SINCE POLITICAL AFFAIRS ARE SO CLOSELY ENTWINED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS IN MIDDLE EAST.
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